

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of April 10, 2006**

1. **The Council in School:** City TV staff will be covering the three Council meetings to be held at Takoma Park Middle School utilizing the MCPS Van. These meetings will not air live on the cable channel or the web, however the plan is to play the meeting at midnight on the cable channel and stream it on the web. Tuesday morning, the Council meeting archive should be available on the City website. The meetings will also replay on City TV 13 at the usual replay schedule, which is 10 AM and 8 PM on Wednesday, and noon on Friday. A VHS tape of the event will also be available for patron check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library, as usual. *(City TV)*
2. **Budget on the Web:** Web staff have posted the Proposed FY07 to the following page on the City website: <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/finance/fy07/proposed.html> *(City TV)*
3. **Tastes of Takoma:** City TV staff covered Tastes of Takoma on Sunday April 9. A good event was had by all. Performance video tapes will be aired starting in May. *(City TV)*
4. **Community Center Closed:** Please be advised that the Community Center at 7500 Maple Ave. will be closed on Saturday and Sunday, April 15 and 16. Because of construction, class schedules and Spring Break, there are no activities scheduled and no rentals in the building. However, the Computer Learning Center will be open on Saturday from 12-5 as usual. *(Recreation)*
5. **Annual Egg Hunt:** The Annual Egg Hunt is being held Saturday, April 15, at 11 am sharp. It is an appropriate activity for kids through age 8. Held at the Ed Wilhelm Field behind Piney Branch Elementary School. Don't be late or you will miss it! *(Recreation)*
6. **The Camp Fair:** On Tuesday, April 4, Takoma Park Recreation Department attended a camp fair at Silver Spring International Middle School from 7-8:30 p.m., in an effort to market the day camps. *(Recreation)*
7. **Spring Break Camp 2006:** Passport to Korea came to a close on Friday, April 14. The full session of 40 children learned about Korean culture, language, dance, food, and games. The children went swimming, visited the Korean Embassy and tasted some traditional Korean food. The highlights of the week were the Korean drummers and the Fan Dancers with the music and traditional dress. The children definitely got a real taste of Korea. No passport required! *(Recreation)*
8. **Toatley Fraser Pavillion Installation (Ward 5):** The installation of the picnic pavillion at Toatley Fraser Park was started this week. Work should be completed next week and will include a short path from the pavillion to the existing asphalt pathway to the playground. The City will be installing new picnic tables and trash containers. This project was funded through a Community Parks and Playgrounds grant. *(Public Works)*

9. **Street Restoration (Ward 2):** Work progress was slow this week. Concrete work continues on Davis Avenue. Sidewalk replacement in the 800 block of Jackson Avenue delayed until next week. Concrete repairs will start on Heather Avenue next week. *(Public Works)*

10. **Carriage House Grounds Maintenance (Ward 1):** Mike Welsh, City Gardener, supervised a team of 10 volunteers from the University of Maryland on Saturday, April 8. The team removed English ivy and mulched the beds. *(Public Works)*

11. **Arbor Day:** Even though the weather was not conducive, Arbor Day was celebrated by the annual tree seedling give-away. The City was joined by the Committee on the Environment, Horticulture Club, Washington Gardener Magazine, Friends of Sligo Creek, and PEPCO. A small but steady stream of visitors came through from 10am to 2pm last Saturday. *(Public Works)*

12. **Mulch Delivery:** The City's mulch delivery program began in March this year and continues every Friday - until the mulch is gone! Deliveries both inside and outside the City can be coordinated by calling Public Works, 301-891-7633. The fee is \$45 for 3 yards, \$64 for 7 or 10 yards for City residents, \$65 for 3 yards and \$105 for 7 & 10 yards for those outside the City. *(Public Works)*

13. **Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 5):**

- The tenant residing at 7716 Garland Avenue received a letter from the owner advising that the property is for sale. The tenant has responded with an interest to purchase. This is a single family house selling for \$395,000.
- The tenants residing at 8508-10 Flower Avenue have received letters from the owner stating that their rental property is being sold for \$1,700,000. This is a 21-unit property and there is a third party contract. Letters have been sent to each tenant suggesting a meeting with the city's community organizers so the organizers can explain the rights they have under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Law and assess if the tenants want to form a tenants association. *(Housing and Community Development)*

14. **Affordable Housing (All Wards):** A notice will be posted in the upcoming Newsletter regarding the Affordable Housing Forum that will take place on May 23, 2006 from 7pm - 9pm. The City has invited the Council of Governments (COG) and the Washington Area Housing Partnership to sponsor the program. Topics to be discussed include "Preserving Affordable Housing in Takoma Park", "Developing Housing and Land Trusts" and "Best Affordable Housing Practices in the Area". The forum is being organized to help promote dialog about future affordable housing programs in Takoma Park. More detailed information about the Forum will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, contact Sara Daines at (301) 891-7224 or SaraD@takomagov.org *(Housing and Community Development)*

15. **Maple Avenue Traffic Signal (Wards 1 and 4):** State Highway has turned on the new signals at Maple and Philadelphia Avenues. The new signals will improve pedestrian safety by adding a walk light on the remaining side of the intersection and lowering the height of the traffic lights so that drivers can more easily see pedestrians in their line of sight. *(Housing and Community Development)*

16. Enterprise Zone Meeting (Wards 2, 3, and 6): There was a well-attended Enterprise Zone Business Meeting on April 12th. This month's speaker was Lorena Bailey of the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection. Ms. Bailey talked about basic consumer protection laws, what steps to take when contracting outside services, and recognizing scams that target small businesses. Sgt. Gilbert of Takoma Park Police spoke on the advantages of a Business Watch program and the Senior Planner, Ilona Blanchard, gave an update on planning and redevelopment activity in the area. For more information, please contact David Suls at 301-891-7219. *(Housing and Community Development)*

17. Laurel Avenue (Wards 1 and 3): State Highway is expected to have the new ADA accessible pedestrian signals at Carroll and Laurel operational by early next week. In the meantime, pedestrians are advised to cross Carroll Avenue at the crosswalk with an operational walk light near Summer Delight, and to take care crossing Laurel Avenue at Carroll. *(Housing and Community Development)*

18. Tree Ordinance Regulations: A proposed final administrative regulation has been issued by the City Manager. The regulation provides guidance for compliance with and enforcement of Chapter 12, Trees and Vegetation, Sections 12.08.040 and 12.12.080.B.1, which concern the control of noxious growths and undesirable species. The regulation has been distributed to Council for final review. *(City Clerk)*

19. Officers in Training: Captain Coursey attended the Basic Anti-Terrorism Training for Law Enforcement Conference this week, during which Sgt. Gilbert has been acting commander of the patrol unit. Sgt. Hammond, Cpl. Smith and Ofc. Mitchell attended annual D.A.R.E. in-service training for three days. Lt. Cipperly attended NCIC recertification training on Apr. 12. *(Police)*

20. Back on Beat (Ward 1): Officer Mike Collins returned to active status after an extended period of sick leave. He has been reassigned to the V1 beat working on Sgt. Frishkorn's squad. *(Police)*

21. Crime Report (Wards 2, 3 & 5): Det. Conrad arrested a juvenile in relation to a burglary earlier this month on Hudson. She obtained a warrant for first degree assault and other charges against an adult male related to a stabbing that occurred in October 2005 in the 6800 block of New Hampshire Avenue. A suspect has been identified, and is being sought, related to an assault that occurred in a residence on Westmoreland Avenue April 14. *(Police)*

22. Patrol Activities (Ward 4 & 5): Thanks to a resident's report of suspicious activity, a man was arrested early Monday morning on charges related to attempt theft of property from vehicles in the 7600 block of Maple Avenue. A resident phoned to report suspicious behavior: a stranger lurking around a parked van and truck in an apartment lot. As the caller spoke to dispatch and officers responded, the suspect broke into a van. He was arrested by officers as he exited. In other patrol activity, half of the week's traffic enforcement took place on Maple and Flower Avenues, with the majority culminating in citations. *(Police)*